AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.-41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus comprising:

an input device for inputting image data;

an extractor for extracting additional data embedded in said image data input by the input device, said additional data including information in connection with a copyright of said inputted image data; and

a transmitter for transmitting the thus extracted additional data to a management unit each time image data is input by the input device.

43. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus in accordance with claim 42, further comprising an additional data management section for generating new additional data and embedding said new additional data in said input image data from which additional data has already been extracted by said extractor.

44. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus in accordance with claim 43, further comprising an output unit for outputting said input image data after said new additional data has been embedded therein by said additional data management section.

45. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus in accordance with claim 44, further comprising a secret management section for selectively preventing the output of said input image data based on said extracted additional data.

46. (Previously Presented) An image processing method comprising steps of:

inputting image data that includes additional data embedded therein;

extracting the additional data embedded in the input image data, wherein said additional data includes information in connection with a copyright of the image data; and

transmitting the thus extracted additional data to a management unit each time image data is inputted.

47. (Previously Presented) An image processing method in accordance with claim 46, further comprising a step of generating new additional data and embedding said new additional data in said input image data from which additional data has already been extracted during said step of extracting.

48. (Previously Presented) An image processing method in accordance with claim 47, further comprising a step of outputting said input image data after said new additional data has been embedded therein.

49. (Previously Presented) An image processing method in accordance with claim 47, further comprising a step of selectively preventing an output of said input image data based on said extracted additional data.

50.-55. (Cancelled)

56. (Previously Presented) An additional data management apparatus connected to a plurality of image processing devices, said additional data management apparatus comprising:

communication means for communicating with said plurality of image processing devices via a communication line to receive additional data that includes information that corresponds to a copyright of the image data; and

a storage medium to store additional data received from said communication means.

57. (Previously Presented) An additional data management apparatus in accordance with claim 56, further comprising:

a terminal for receiving an instruction for a total copy number; and

a processor for controlling the storage medium to obtain the total copy number based on the additional data stored in the storage medium.

58. (Previously Presented) An additional data management apparatus in accordance with claim 56, further comprising:

a terminal for receiving an instruction for confirmation of a leakage path; and

a processor for controlling the storage medium to generate the leakage path based on the additional data stored in the storage medium.

59. (Previously Presented) An additional data management method in an additional data management apparatus connected to a plurality of image processing devices via a communication line, said additional data management method comprising steps of:

receiving additional data that includes information that corresponds to a copyright of image data supplied from the plurality of image processing devices; and

storing received additional data in a storage medium.

60. (Previously Presented) An additional data management method in accordance with claim 59, further comprising steps of:

receiving an instruction for a total copy number; and

controlling the storage medium to obtain the total copy number based on the additional data stored in the storage medium.

61. (Previously Presented) An additional data management method in accordance with claim 59, further comprising steps of:

receiving an instruction for confirmation of a leakage path; and

controlling the storage medium to generate the leakage path based on the additional data stored in the storage medium.

62. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus comprising:

an input device for inputting image data;

an extractor for extracting additional data embedded in said input image data, said additional data including information corresponding to a copyright of said input image data;

a decision device for determining whether said additional data extracted by the extractor is imperfect; and

an initialization device for initializing additional data determined to be imperfect by the decision device.

63. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus in accordance with claim 62, wherein said additional data extracted by the extractor includes a plurality of sets of data, and wherein the decision device determines whether said additional data is imperfect based on a comparison of two or more of said sets of data.

64. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus in accordance with claim 62, wherein said additional data extracted by the extractor includes a plurality of sets of data each having corresponding blocks of data, and wherein the decision device determines whether said input image data is of a forged image based on a comparison of said blocks of data.

65. (Previously Presented) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

inputting image data;

extracting additional data embedded in the thus inputted image data, said additional data including information corresponding to a copyright of the image data;

determining whether the thus extracted additional data is imperfect; and

initializing additional data thus determined to be imperfect.

66. (Previously Presented) An image processing method in accordance with claim 65, wherein said additional data extracted during the step of extracting includes a plurality of sets of data, and wherein the determination made during the step of determining

whether said additional data is imperfect is based on a comparison of two or more of said sets of data.

67. (Previously Presented) An image processing method in accordance with claim 65, wherein said additional data extracted during the step of extracting includes a plurality of sets of data each having corresponding blocks of data, and wherein said method further comprises a step of determining whether said input image data is of a forged image based on a comparison of said blocks of data.